

Inventory No.

PG: 67-38

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Building 419 - DEMOLISHED

other	Building 4.8; Building 4.5
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2. Location

street and number Biocontrol Road not for publication

city, town Beltsville X vicinity

county Prince George's

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Center

street and number 10300 Baltimore Ave telephone 301-504-9595

city, town	Beltsville	state	MD	zip code	20705
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	liber	folio
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city, town	tax map	tax parcel	tax ID number
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☒ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☒ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Building 419 is a streamlined, PWA Moderne-inspired, one-story building oriented along a north-south axis parallel to Biocontrol Road. It has wood frame construction covered by vertical board-and-batten and a concrete pier foundation. The footprint of the building is somewhat irregular, with a single projecting wing to the north, and two legs extending at the south end, creating a U-shaped entrance court. There is also a small extension on the west façade and one on the east façade as well. At the intersection of the north and east wings is an exterior brick chimney. The building is distinguished by a row, three in height, of wood-frame, single-pane, clerestory windows. The flat, built up, roof features a projecting canopy with exposed beams over the windows.

Building 419 is located on Biocontrol Road, approximately one-fourth of a mile south of Powder Mill Road on the eastern portion of the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. The area is abandoned and is in a state of serious disrepair. Building 419 was part of a complex of 12 buildings operated by the National Youth Administration, but now only Buildings 419 and 421 remain.

The main façade of the building faces south and has two legs extending southward. Between the two wings are two wooden doors on the west end next to a bank of 12 windows. On the east leg are two wooden doors and three one-pane windows along the western end of the wing. The western leg has two one-pane windows. The eastern façade has a wall with 11 three-pane, clerestory windows connected by an east-west corridor to a section of the building with 17 three-pane, clerestory windows. At the north end of the east façade is a porch sheltering an entrance to the building. The western façade is relatively featureless other than eight single-pane clerestory windows.

The interior of Building 419 has been altered several times since its initial construction. Currently, the building is divided into several offices of various sizes by wooden walls. The floor also is wood. The building is in a very deteriorated state because of a lack of use; a past fire in the south portion of the building also has contributed to its disrepair.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

National Youth Administration

Construction dates 1941

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

Building 419 was constructed in 1941 by the National Youth Administration as part a resident project camp, and served as the administration building for the camp. After the camp's closure in November 1942, the building became part of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the USDA remodeled it several times over the next 50 years for different uses. The building is significant for its association with the New Deal-era National Youth Administration resident project conducted at Beltsville and as an example of New Deal-era architecture.

History of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (1910-1950)

Agriculture has been an important part of US history since the colonial days. In 1839, the US Congress established the Agricultural Department of the US Patent Office to compile information, collect statistics, and distribute seeds to farmers. During the Civil War, the Agricultural Department of the US Patent Office was established as an independent entity; the Agriculture Building was constructed in 1867 on the Mall in Washington, DC.¹

To better support farmers, the Agricultural Department established a research center at Beltsville in 1910. Initial research focused on new methods of dairy farming and animal husbandry. The first new building was "The Dairy Barn" (Building 167) in 1913. During the 1920s, the center grew as additional land was acquired around Walnut Grange plantation. By 1926, the original 475 acre farm had expanded to 1,662 acres. To illustrate the size of the new enterprise, a 1929 report indicated that the center contained 60 permanent buildings (offices, laboratories, residences, barns, storage buildings, garages, a mill, and work shops) and 160 small animal and poultry houses.²

See Continuation Form

¹ Beltsville Area History Committee, *Celebrating 90 Years: History of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center* (<http://www.ba.ars.usda.gov/history/>, 2003).

² Ibid; Alan Virta, *Prince George's County: A Pictorial History* (The Donning Company, 1998), 232.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property less than 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting less than 1 acre
Quadrangle name Laurel

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Building 419 is located on Biocontrol Road, approximately one-fourth of a mile south of Powder Mill Road on the eastern portion of the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. Building 419 was part of a complex of 12 buildings operated by the NYA, but now only Buildings 419 and 421 remain. The boundary includes the building and all of the land historically associated with it.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Edward Salo, Architectural Historian		
organization	Brockington and Associates, Inc.	date	16 August 2004
street & number	1051 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Ste F	telephone	843-881-3128
city or town	Mt. Pleasant	state	South Carolina

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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During the Roosevelt administration's New Deal, Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace ordered extensive land acquisition and new construction at Beltsville. During the 1930s, 46 major buildings and numerous greenhouses were constructed on the newly expanded 12,671 acre complex. Research projects at the Animal Disease Experiment Station in Bethesda, Maryland; Entomology and Plant Quarantine Station in Takoma Park, Maryland; and Arlington Farms Experiment Station in Arlington, Virginia, relocated to Beltsville. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) served as the primary builder at Beltsville during the 1930s. The CCC constructed 21 buildings; 79 miles of roads, trails, and bridges; erected 242 miles of fences; laid 126 miles of water, sewage, and drainage pipes; landscaped 500 acres; and moved 78,000 trees and shrubs.³

In 1935, Congress passed the Bankhead and Jones Act that changed the research approach of USDA. New funds were available to "conduct research into the laws and principles underlying basic problems in Agriculture in its broadest aspects."⁴ Because of this Act, many research projects at Beltsville change from a very applied to a more basic approach. These projects received about a 10% increase in funding.⁵ During the post World War II era, Beltsville continued to serve as the USDA's primary agricultural research center.

National Youth Administration during the New Deal (1936-1943)

As part of Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935, the Roosevelt administration established the National Youth Administration (NYA). The NYA had three primary missions. The first mission was to provide funds and work scholarships to keep students in high school and college. The NYA's second mission was to operate a large works project program where students learned a permanent trade and constructed educational, recreational and community buildings. Finally, the NYA operated resident projects to train rural and urban students in vocational skills. A typical NYA resident project had anywhere from 25 to 200 young students, who lived in dormitories and worked in industrial shops. Students would prepare the meals, and they paid for their food, lodging and medical care out of their wages.⁶ Student spent roughly half of the week working under the supervision of a foreman and learning the "modern production methods similar to those which prevailed in private industry."⁷ In addition to the vocational training, the NYA cooperated with local school system so that the students had the opportunity to attend classes during the rest of the week.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Carroll Van West, *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape: A Guidebook* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2001), p.22-23.

⁷ Federal Security Agency, War Manpower Commission, *Final Report of the National Youth Administration: Fiscal Years 1936-1943* (Washington, DC: Governmental Printing Office, 1944), n.p

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In December 1940, NYA operated 595 resident projects in 45 states and Puerto Rico, employing a total of 33,780 students, including 14,160 women.⁸ Progressive reformers believed that the NYA resident projects created new educational environments that would serve in educating the youth who had lost access to many of the traditional institutions because of the Great Depression. President Roosevelt agreed and announced \$22.5 million to expand the program in May 1941. However, with the US's entry in World War II in December 1941, the government's priorities changed, and by 1943 the program was deactivated.⁹

NYA Resident Project at Beltsville and Building 419

In October 1940, the USDA signed an agreement with the NYA to establish a resident project at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. NYA personnel started construction of the camp started immediately; they completed most of the necessary buildings by the end of 1941. The NYA complex included an administration building, a dining hall, a storage building, dormitories, a hospital building, and residences. One of the buildings constructed by the NYA was the current Building 419. The real property record indicated that the original cost of the building was \$16,000 and it had 5,200 square feet of space. A map in the 1941 USDA guide to Beltsville Research Center indicates that Building 419 was the NYA administration building.¹⁰

The Beltsville NYA resident project closed on 30 November 1942, and the facilities reverted back to Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.¹¹ The USDA converted the building for the Bureau of Entomology into a laboratory to conduct investigations

On methods of ridding airplanes of insects by means of aerosols and residual spray treatments. These studies also determined the effect of the different treatments on the interior surfaces of places to avoid injury to paints, plastics, upholstery, etc. Test are conducted here on the efficiency of new equipment for applying insecticides, such as high-speed blowers, and mechanical and heat generators for aerosols.¹²

⁸ Ibid, n.p.

⁹ Federal Security Agency, War Manpower Commission, *Final Report of the National Youth Administration: Fiscal Years 1936-1943*, n.p.; West, *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape: A Guidebook*, p.23-24.

¹⁰ H. Ewing, Survey Form- Building 419; Real Property Office. Real Property Record for Building 419; United States Department of Agriculture, *Beltsville Research Center*, (Beltsville Maryland, Information, 1941).

¹¹ Ewing;

¹² United States Department of Agriculture, *The Agricultural Research Center of the United States Department of Agriculture*, (Miscellaneous Publication no. 697, 1949), pp.19-20.

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Later Building 419 served as a technical office and cartographic facility for the Soil Conservation Service, a mineral deposits facility for the Geological Survey, and a radio lab of the Forest Service. During these conversions, the interior of the building was altered to fit the changing needs. For example, in December 1960, a new office was constructed in the storage area.¹³ During the 1980s and 1990s, Building 419 served as temporary office space as needed. Currently the building is abandoned and in serious disrepair.

New Deal Architecture

From 1892 until 1930s, most federal government architecture was based on classically inspired styles such as Classical Revival and Beaux-Arts. These styles were thought to express democratic values because of their connections to Greece. Additionally, they reflected the federal government's view that "government building should be monumental and beautiful, and should represent the ideals of democracy and high standards of architectural sophistication in their communities."¹⁴

As the nation entered the Great Depression, the federal government began to use restrained—or "starved"—versions of classically inspired styles. At the same time, private architects hired under the work programs combined Beaux-Arts compositions and symmetry with a form of ornamentation referred to as Zigzag Moderne. The result of these two combined influences was a classically balanced version of Art Deco architecture known as "PWA or WPA Moderne." The terms PWA and WPA come from the extensive use of the style in government-sponsored public buildings programs during the 1930s and early 1940s.¹⁵ Although Building 419 is not a pure example of PWA or WPA Moderne, like the Department of Interior Building in Washington, DC, it is an example of a vernacular adaptation of the ideals of PWA or WPA Moderne in a wooden building.

¹³ Ewing, Real Property Office.

¹⁴ Beth Boland, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. National Register Bulletin 13 (Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993), p. 3.

¹⁵ Judith Singer Cohen, *Cowtown Moderne: Art Deco Architecture of Fort Worth* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1986), pp. 14-15.

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SECTION 9

Beltsville Area History Committee. *Celebrating 90 Years: History of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center*.
<http://www.ba.ars.usda.gov/history/>. 2003

Boland, Beth. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. National Register Bulletin 13. Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993.

Cohen, Judith Singer. *Cowtown Moderne: Art Deco Architecture of Fort Worth*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1986.

Ewing, H. Survey Form- Building 419. On file, USDA ARC.

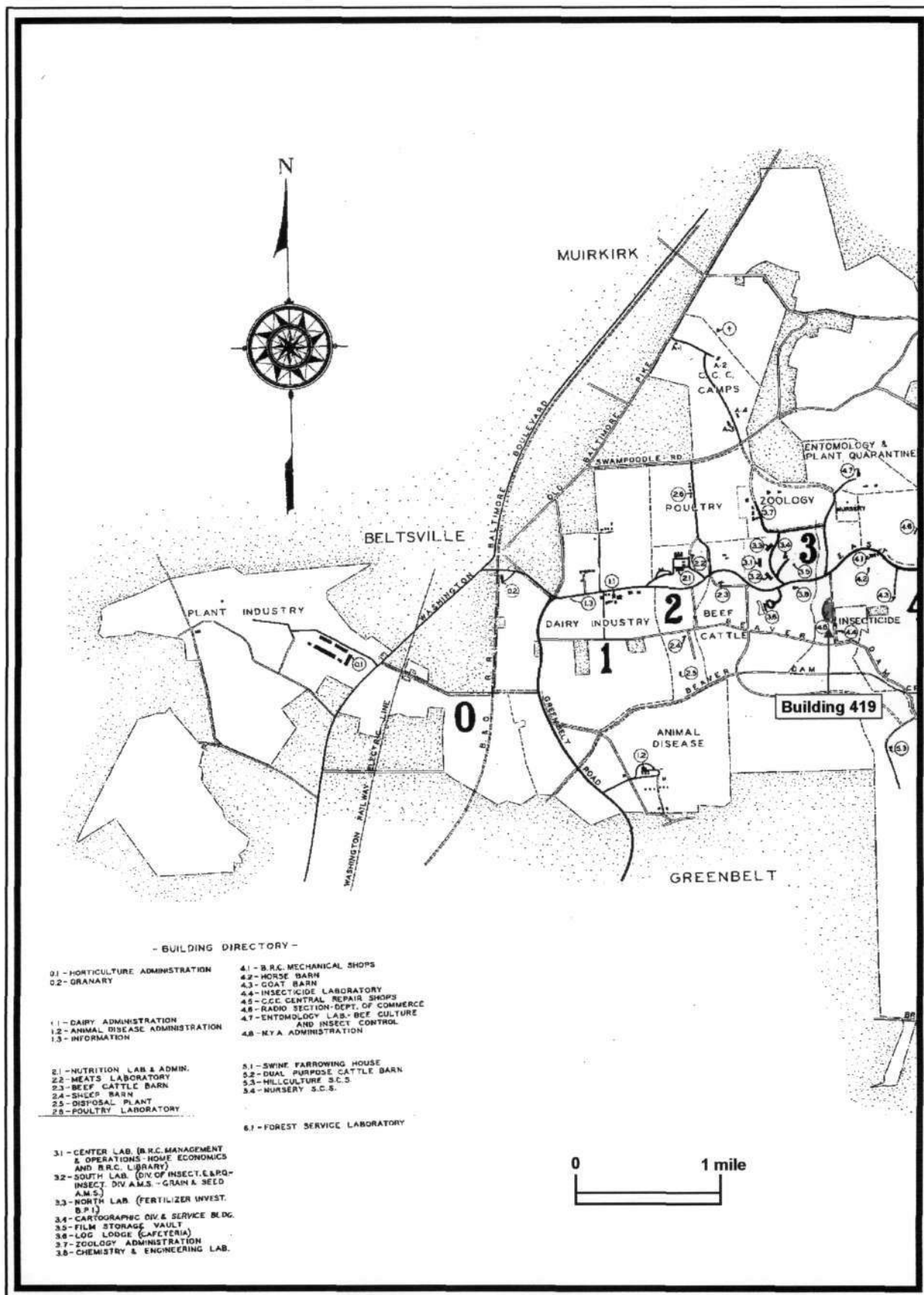
Federal Security Agency, War Manpower Commission. *Final Report of the National Youth Administration: Fiscal Years 1936-1943*. Washington, DC: Governmental Printing Office, 1944.

Real Property Office. Real Property Record for Building 419. On file, USDA ARC.

United States Department of Agriculture, *Beltsville Research Center, Beltsville Maryland, Information*, 1941.

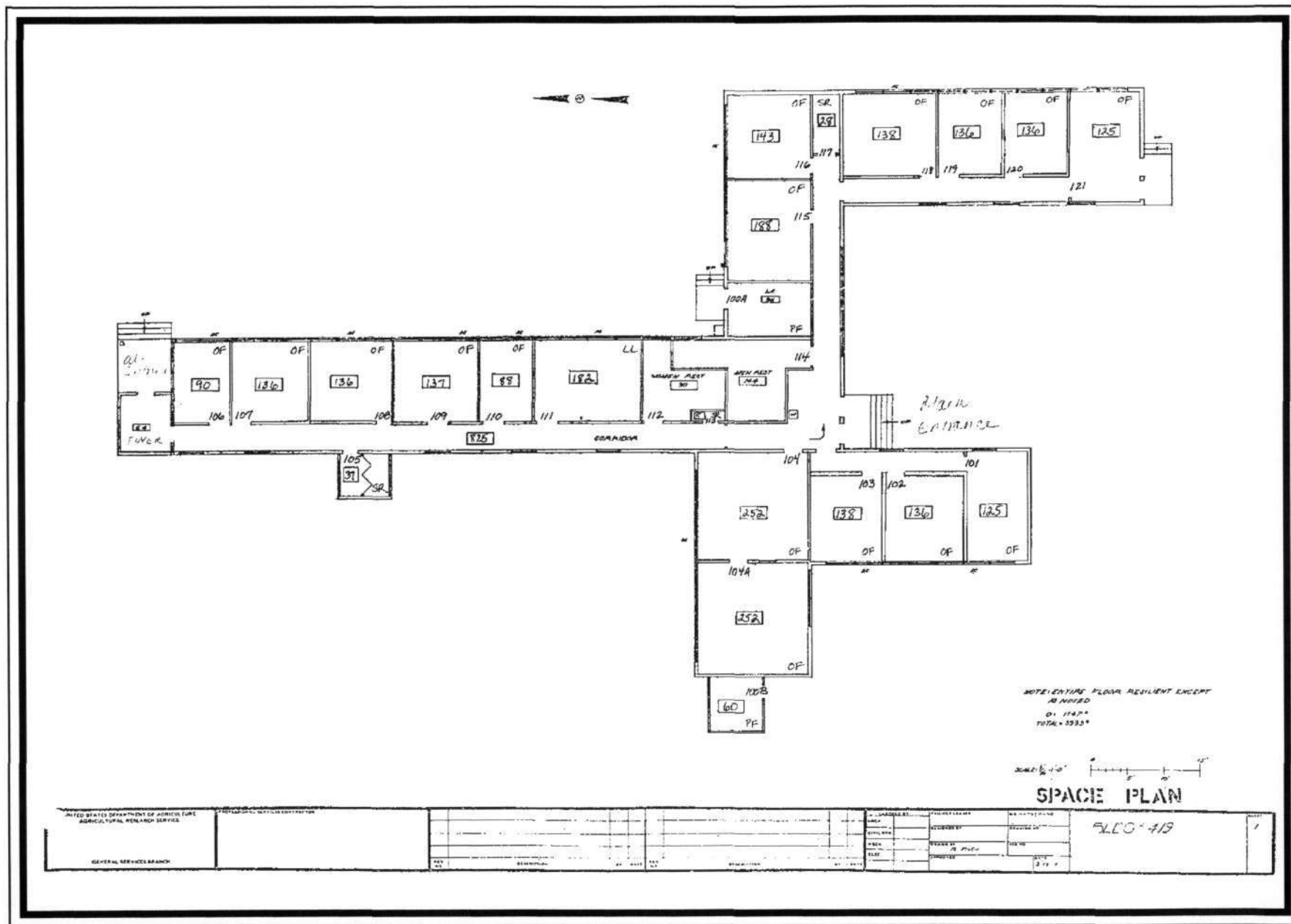
_____. *The Agricultural Research Center of the United States Department of Agriculture*, Miscellaneous Publication no. 697, 1949.

West, Carroll Van. *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape: A Guidebook*. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2001.



Location of Building 419 on a 1941 map.

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Floor plan of Building 419.

Location of Building 419.



PG: 67-38

Bldg 4199

Prince George's, MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

East Elevation

1/11

044 (Bo. 3) 1011918 3211 N N N 12



PG: 67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Fol Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

Wing on East Elevation
2/11

WA 416. 5 21022418 3211 N N N 12



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Bldg 419

Prince George's, MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

north elevation

3/11

WM 040 7 21033418 3211 N N M 22



PG: 67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

West Elevation

4/11

WM (Jb), 8 21043418 3211 N N H N 2



PG: 67-38
Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

View from SE

5/11

WA 046.12 21050418 3211 N N N 12



PG:67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's, MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

main facade looking N

6/11

WM 040*14 01060418 3211 N N N 12



PG: 67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

~~Rear~~

West elevation

7/11

WA 010115 10020418 3211 N N N 12



PG:67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Eel Sab

8/04

MD SHPO

West Elevation

8/11

WA 090.18 21083418 3211 N H H 22



PG: 67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Ed Sale

8/04

MD SHPO

East Elevation

9/11

WM 040 61 8109418 3211 N N N 12



PG: 67-38

Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Ed Sale

8/04

MD SHPO

roof details

10/11

WA (Pho. 21) 1100418 3211 N N 12



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Bldg 419

Prince George's MD

Ed Salo

8/04

MD SHPO

Window detail

11/11

WA 040.23 01110418 3211 N M H 12